

October 10, 1989

MUSEUM TO PRESENT SOVIET SILENT CLASSIC WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

New Babylon, a spectacular 1929 Soviet silent film for which Dmitri Shostakovich wrote his first motion picture score, will receive a gala presentation at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Wednesday, October 25, starting at 7:30 p.m. Bruce Loeb, acclaimed pianist at Berkeley's Pacific Film Archive, will incorporate themes from Shostakovich's original score into his improvisation. (Organist Dennis James, originally announced as accompanist, was compelled to cancel.)

New Babylon, directed by Grigori Kozintsev and Leonid Trauberg, is a high point of a film era that spawned director Sergei Eisenstein and sophisticated rapid film editing, or montage. New Babylon is a splendid example of Soviet montage, with scores of potent images welded into an electrifying narrative of 1871 Paris. A clerk catering to the wealthy at a lavish department store (the "New Babylon") joins the patriotic proletariat to defend Paris when the Prussians threaten to invade, while the rich bargain with and capitulate to the enemy.

Advance tickets to New Babylon cost \$6 (\$4 for Museum members) and can be purchased by mail or at the CMA Bookstore during regular hours. Any remaining tickets will go on sale at the door at 7 p.m. on the 25th. Those cost \$7 (\$5 for Museum members, students, and seniors).

New Babylon opens the first Cleveland Film Conference, a major gathering of U.S. and U.S.S.R. experts who will discuss "Soviet Cinema Today" at John Carroll University from Oct. 26-29. Other films and videotapes will be shown throughout the weekend at John Carroll and at the Cleveland Institute of Art. A free program of short Soviet silents will play the Musuem at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29. Call 421-7340 both for more information on that program and about tickets for New Babylon.